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FOI/PA# 1213376-0

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-12-2015 BY ADG/J75J65T61

TO : SAC WFO [REDACTED] (SUB A)

DATE: 1/5/73

b6
b7C
b7D

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

IS-R
OO:WFO

On 1/3/73 [REDACTED] captioned advised that all of the individuals in the [REDACTED] are extremely concerned over the AP release of the death of SERGEI KOURDAKOV. KOURDAKOV had visited [REDACTED] in early December, and had spoken for two hours with the personnel assigned there. He specifically asked to meet two of the [REDACTED] whose names KOURDAKOV remembered from [REDACTED] when he was in the USSR.

b7D

While several of the employees were somewhat reluctant to believe the escape from communism story, all have recently expressed doubts about the suicide. KOURDAKOV had told them about the book which is being published ~~in~~ by a New York publisher concerning his escape, the subsequent movie rights, the Ford Thunderbird which he had purchased, and his joy in being free.

[REDACTED] shortly before the departure of KOURDAKOV to the West Coast. KOURDAKOV was scheduled to return to WDC on 1/25/73 for a meeting with an unknown congressman concerning his future status as a citizen of the US.

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Source indicated that letters are being written to various government agencies for investigation concerning this death. Money is being collected in a KOURKADOV fund.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JAN 5 1973	
FBI-WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE	

1

[REDACTED] (Russian-American Activities in the US)

b7E



SAC WFO [REDACTED]

1/5/73

b6
b7C
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SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
IS-R (SOVININFO-KGB)
OO:WFO

ON 1/3/73 [REDACTED]
SE. WDC advised that [REDACTED] is planning a reception at [REDACTED]
on [REDACTED] and that she had been asked by [REDACTED] to call
x captioned to determine whether he would be interested in
attending this function. [REDACTED] would like to invite several
Soviets to show their appreciation for the assistance received
during the recent visit of [REDACTED] to the USSR.

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Prior to the reception a small champagne lunch is
to be held at the home of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and all preparations will be made by
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] contacted captioned and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] said that he would be unable to attend because a
delegation would be arriving at that time from the USSR.
However [REDACTED] indicated her desire to go if she could
find someone to drive her there. [REDACTED] said that she could
probably have [REDACTED] drive her to this party but that
would mean inviting both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
will see ~~that~~ that invitations are sent to all.

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[REDACTED] could furnish no additional information
concerning this matter at this time since she was preparing
to [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] She will contact this agent on her return)

[REDACTED] also advised that through her friends in
[REDACTED] she has heard much discussion about the
concern in the emigre community over the apparent suicide of
SERGEI KOURDAKOV in Los Angeles. While some members of the
emigre had doubted the bona fides of this individual, all
are very disturbed over the news that the Soviets will claim
the body, since a suicide of a recent defector is a propaganda
coup for the USSR.

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1 [REDACTED] (Russian American Activities)
1 [REDACTED]
1 [REDACTED]

SEARCHED INDEXED
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 01-14-2015 BY ADG/J75J65T61

TO : SAC WFO [REDACTED]

DATE: 1/5/73

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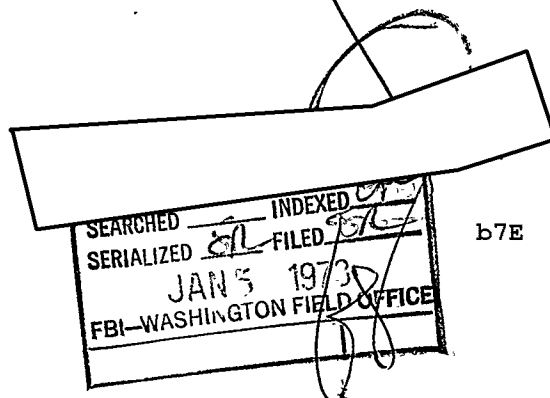
FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: RUSSIAN AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IN THE US
IS-R
OO:WFO

On 1/3/73 Mr GEORGE PRUJAN, ~~xxx~~L 8401 Manchester Road, Silver Spring, Maryland telephonically contacted this writer to express his concern over the reaction of the death of SERGEI KOURDAKOV on the emigre community in WDC. Mr PRUJAN a former COSSACK Cavalary Officer in the service of the czar, is a well-known and highly regarded member of the emigre community in WDC.

Mr PRUJAN indicated that SERGEI KOURDAKOV had visited WDC for a two week period in early December, had made himself available to meet with emigre families in their homes, and spoke before church groups concerning hescape and conversion to christianity.

PRUJAN indicated that KOURDAKOV was well received and well loved within the community. Efforts are being made to collect funeral expenses for shipping the body to WDC for burial here. PRUJAN said the community has heard that the body is to be shipped to the USSR, since KOURDAKOV, who was awaiting American citizenship, was still technically a Soviet citizen. Consequently letters are being sent to USDS and petitions are being prepared. The death and circumstances surrounding this death are of deep concern to the emigre community.



b7E



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Slain Russian Defector Buried Here

By Marjorie Hyer

Washington Post Staff Writer

Sergei Kourdakov, 21, a one-time Soviet naval officer who changed from a persecutor of Christians to an ardent evangelist, was buried yesterday among fellow defectors in the Russian section of the Rock Creek Cemetery here.

Kourdakov died New Year's Eve in a California mountain resort cabin, apparently as the result of his own carelessness — or folly — in handling a .38 caliber revolver, according to po-

Much of the aura of tumult and controversy that surrounded Kourdakov's

brief life continues after his death.

The remarkable conversion to Christianity of the one-time model Communist as he swam from the Soviet fishing trawler, which he served as radar-radio officer, to Canada's westernmost shore attracted him to Underground Evangelism, a California-based organization dedicated to smuggling Christian literature into the Soviet Union.

Kourdakov has been the star attraction of Underground Evangelism, since coming to the United States.

The organization has come under criticism from

other evangelical groups both for putting Kourdakov in the spotlight and for the Bible-smuggling program itself which some maintain jeopardizes the safety of Christians behind the Iron Curtain.

John Broger, a local supporter of Underground Evangelism and sometimes host to Kourdakov during his visits here, dismissed such criticism as the result of "competition" among the anti-Communist evangelical groups.

L. Joe Bass of Glendale, Calif., president of Underground Evangelism, who accompanied Kourdakov's

body here for funeral services at Fellowship House and also at St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, denied that the youth's death would have a major impact on the work of his organization.

"We will miss Sergei," he said, but added that his death "will not mean closing down any major activity that was started."

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, a Rumanian refugee who heads a competing anti-Communist organization, has hinted broadly that Kourdakov with his dra-

See DEFECTOR, C4, Col. 3



SERGE KOURDAKOV

... tumult continues

DATE 1-12-73

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✓ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

— THE EVENING STAR

— THE SUNDAY STAR

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 12 1973
F. B. I.



By James E. W. Atherton—The Washington Post.

Father Nicolas Pekatoros performed the religious ceremony at Rock Creek Cemetery for Sergei Kourdakov.

Slain Defector Buried Here

DEFECTOR, From C1
matic conversion from Christian persecutor to Christian believer, was a primary magnet for contributions to Underground Evangelism.

Kourdakov died while on a New Year's week-end outing with Ann Johnson, 17, of

Cerritos, Calif., a young woman with whom friends said he enjoyed a "brother-sister" relationship.

San Bernardino County authorities said Kourdakov had been examining and toying with a revolver lent him by Miss Johnson's father, which had all the chambers loaded but one.

Sheriff's officials believe

Kourdakov fired the fatal shot by accident.

Friends said Kourdakov had received one or two threats since he has been in this country.

Broger said Kourdakov was buried here because of the many friends he had made in this area during a month-long visit here last fall.

Young Russian Defector Victim of Gun Accident

Sergei Kourdakov, 21, a former Soviet naval officer who defected in Canada in 1971, died Jan. 1 in a shooting accident in Running Springs, Calif., a ski resort.

Although the death originally was said by San Bernadino County authorities to be an apparent suicide, the county coroner now says that all indications point to an accident. A final report has not been made.

Mr. Kourdakov leaped from a Russian fishing trawler during a storm off the coast of British Columbia in September, 1971, and in a 20-hour ordeal managed to swim to the coast.

He entered the United States in July under the sponsorship of the Evangelism Center in Glendale, Calif. For the last five months he had lectured before church groups from

coast to coast on the ills of Soviet society and the need for a worldwide spiritual revival. While in Washington he stayed at Fellowship House on Woodland Drive NW.

Mr. Kourdakov, born in Siberia, was the son of a senior Soviet military officer. Orphaned at the age of 4, he was reared in a series of state orphanages.

He leaves no known survivors.

Services were scheduled for 2 p.m., today at St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, 4001 17th St. NW, with burial in Rock Creek Cemetery.

DATE 1-11-73

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— THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

✓ — THE EVENING STAR

— THE SUNDAY STAR

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 01-15-2015 BY ADG/J75J65T61

TO : SAC WFO [REDACTED]

DATE: 1/29/73

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b7E

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: RUSSIAN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IN THE US
IS-R
OO:WFO

WFO sources knowledgeable in the activities within the emigre community in WDC have advised that with the exception of the death of SERGEI KOURDAKOV, things have remained quiet and uneventful within the community.

(Above information was received from [REDACTED]
o n 1/15, [REDACTED] on 1/21, and [REDACTED] on 1/28/73, add
has been separately noted in corresponding [REDACTED] files)

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[Handwritten signature/initials inside a large oval]

b7E

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